the three years also showed an increase of 50% and more in malarial and other kinds of fever.

Year.	*Typhoid.*	*Malarial.*	*Other fevers.*
1088	100	323	1,297
1089	232	348	1,353
1090	184	732	1,503

The Member then submitted that, though the figures given by him might not be exhaustive, they never erred on the wrong side and that he had not taken into account cases of treatment by private individuals.

The Member, therefore, requested that a special officer be deputed to enquire into the causes of the vast and increasing outbreak of fever cases and to suggest remedies for their prevention and cure.

(3) *Collection and disposal of nightsoil and rubbish.*—Nightsoil and rubbish carts were seen making their slow way along the main thoroughfares of the city all through the day. The system was due to the paucity in the number of sweepers and scavengers and carts. There was not even one sweeper for one mile of road. For a population of 66,000 there were only 58 scavengers. To make the system more efficient, the Member prayed that an additional grant might be allowed by the Government.

(4) *Water Supply.*—The question of supplying good drinking water to the town was becoming more and more important. Most of the wells dried up and fever and dysentery generally followed the drought, as the people used bad water for drinking purposes. If the Government took the initiative, it might be expected that the people would readily and gladly pay for the very valuable boon of good drinking water. The Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to allot a special grant for sinking at least a dozen wells in the town costing about Rs. 2,500.

In conclusion, the Member prayed that the Government might be pleased to take action to satisfy the public needs detailed above, as early as practicable.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will receive careful consideration.

97. The policy of the Government towards the Municipal institutions in the State.

Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai, B. A. & B. L. (Member, T. I. C., Trivandrum) said that he proposed to deal with the subject under the following heads:—

(1) *The constitution of the Municipal Councils.*—Of the 19 Town Improvement Committees in the State, Trivandrum, Kayenkulam and Shencotta were given 10 non-official members each; Nagercoil, Quilon, Kottayam and Alleppey had 9 non-official members each; and the others, excepting Alwaye and Padmanabhapuram, had only 7 non-officials each. The principle or policy underlying the distribution of seats in the various councils was defective. The population, extent or other importance did not appear to have been taken as the basis on which the distribution was effected. The Member requested that the defect might be remedied by increasing the number of non-official members in the major Committees.

Regarding the number of elected seats in the councils, the Member pointed out that, according to section 9 of the Municipal Bill, the maximum number of councillors was 18, of which not more than one-third should be officers of the Government. Section 10 provided that tax-payers and inhabitants of a Municipality or part thereof might elect a number of councillors for the approval of the Government which should not be less than one-third of the whole. Therefore, if the Government chose to fix the number of non-official elected numbers at the minimum in the Bill, then, allowing the maximum in the total number of councillors, some councils would have only 6 elected members, whereas even now when the maximum was only 12 and 13, there were 7 and 8 non-official elected seats, *i. e.*, 58% and 61%. The reduction would affect the Committees at Nagercoil, Quilon, Trivandrum, Alleppey and Kottayam. It was, therefore, desirable that the minimum number of non-official elected seats should be fixed at least at one-half of the total number of members instead of at one-third as in the Bill.

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(2) *Functions and privileges of the Committees.*—The draft Bill was a distinctively progressive measure and the suggestions regarding details would be submitted to the Government collectively before the Bill was taken up for discussion in the Legislative Council. The Member said that he would, however, make the following suggestions:—

(*a*) The right of appointing such responsible officers as the Health Officer and the Sanitary Engineer should be vested in the Committees subject to the sanction of Government.

(*b*) The Trivandrum Committee had to pay Rs. 6,900 as salary for the President and the Health Officer annually. The Member proposed that a non-official President and a Health Officer of the status of the old Sub-Assistant Surgeon with a pay of Rs. 100—150 might be appointed once in three years. The proposal, if approved, would result in a good saving in the Municipal funds and the amount so saved might be utilised for the construction of buildings and other engineering works or for raising the staff of scavengers and sweepers.

(*c*) The Committees should be allowed the privilege of sending at least one non-official Member to represent them in the Legislative Council.

(3) *Taxation and Finance.*—Many of the Committees were admittedly poor and their resources were small and insufficient even for ordinary work. Greater powers of taxation should be given to the Committees and they should be authorised to tax Government buildings also except those which were used for public, charitable or religious purposes. The Government should give the Committees free scope in matters of taxation and expenditure and the petty restrictions under which they now laboured should be totally removed. The financial condition of the Committee at Trivandrum was not encouraging. In undertaking important schemes, the Government should contribute a decent proportion of the total outlay. In the Municipal Bill, there was no guarantee by the Government that any amount would be allotted by them in any year.

Dewan.—I suppose the Committees are given the power of raising loans.

Member.—Yes, that is provided for in the Bill in the event of new obligations being imposed upon them.

The Member, continuing, said that the Government grant to the Trivandrum Committee at present was small as compared with previous years and he suggested that the Government should have before them some definite policy with regard to such allotment and in contributing to large schemes initiated by the Committee.

(4) *Government control and policy.*—In cases where the Committees might be expected to be better judges as to the necessity, urgency or otherwise of certain matters which were within their province, the Government should, as a rule, accept the recommendations of the Committee. At present, when the Committee was satisfied as to the necessity for new lights at particular places and made recommendations to the Government accordingly, the matter practically reached its final stage with the counter recommendations of the D. P. W. Such instances were common. The Member, therefore, prayed that there should be as far as possible the minimum of interference in matters of detail connected with Municipal administration.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

98. Insanitary condition of the town of Shencottah.

Mr. S. Kasi Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Shencottah) referred to the insanitary condition of the town of Shencottah and said that many parts of the town were very congested, the houses in most of them having little or no backyards. Private scavenging had been made compulsory in some parts of the town, but until suitable lanes were provided for access to the backyards, the system could not, in the opinion of the Member, be extended throughout the town. The town should be extended by assuming the Perumalkulam and the adjacent fields. The people of the adjoining

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